

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus are disclosed for delivering voice mail messages to one or more intended recipients with an indication of the presence of the sender. A message recipient can automatically respond to a voice mail message using a desired form of communication. The presence server can provide presence information across domains so that a user in one domain can automatically obtain presence information and respond to a user in another domain. A client-side presence enabled voice mail application process (i) retrieves voice mail messages from a voice mail server of a user, (ii) queries a presence server to determine the presence of the sender of each retrieved message, and (iii) presents the retrieved voice mail message(s) to the recipient with an indication of the presence of the sender. In addition, the disclosed presence enabled voice mail application process allows the message recipient to automatically respond, for example, by an email, instant message or telephone call to a device where the sender is believed to be present.

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